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Message Text

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22
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-07 /094 W
---------- 032156
R 180830Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2396
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1015

E.O. 11652: GDA
TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON RECENT VISITS BY HUSSEIN AND SADAT

1. FOREIGN MINISTERZAWAWI'S REMARKS TO ME REGARDING LAST WEEK'S SEPARATE OVERNIGHT STOPS IN DHOFAR BY KING HUSSEIN (AUG 9-10) AND PRESIDENT SADAT (AUG 14-15) CONCERNTRATED ON THEIR VASTLY DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS TOWARD POLICIES OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD. HUSSEIN HAD OUTLINED HIS DETERMINATION TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH HIS NORTHERN NEIGHBOR, HAD EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF SYRIAN POLICIES AND ACTIONS TOWARD LEABANON, AND
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IDICATED THAT HE FOUND ASAD AND HIS FELLOW LEADERS IN

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SYRIA WERE PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE COULD WORK ON PRACTICAL BASIS. SADAT, ON OTHER HAND, HAD CASTIGATED ASAD FOR OVER-PLAYING HIS HAND IN LEBANON AND FOR BEING UTTERLY UNREASONABLE IN HIS CRITICISM OF EGYPT FOR SINAI II AGREE-MENT. SADAT HAD TOLD THE SULTAN HE WAS NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN AN EARLY MEETING WITH ASAD TO WORK THINGS OUT. HE HAD GONE SO FAR AS TO TELL THE OMANIS THAT EGYPT HAS PROOF OF DIRECT SYRIAN-ISRAELI COOPERATION AIMED AT CURTAILING, EVEN DESTROYING THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMBENT.

2. WHILE VEHEMENCE OF SADAT'S FEELINGS TOWARD ASAD RATHER SURPRISED THE OMANIS, THE BITTERNESS HE EXPRESSED ABOUT LIBYA'S WADHAFI CAUSED NO AMAZEMENT. ZAWAWI RECALLED THAT OMAN HAS HAD ITS OWN TROUBLES WITH LIBYA AND SAID LIBYANS STILL ARE SENDING ARMS AND TROUBLEMAKERS TO PDRY REGIME IN ADEN ALTHOUGH IN MUCH SMALLER QUANTITIES THAN ONE WOULD THINK FROM HEARING ABOUT LARGE AMOUNTS OF HELP THAT THEY FREQUENTLY PROMISE.

3. ZAWAWI SAID SADAT ALSO VOICED LACK OF SYMPATHY WITH KING HUSSEIN'S EARLY SUMMER VISIT TO MOSCOW, FINDING IT IRONIC THAT THE JORDANIANS FORMERLY CRITICIZED EGYPT FOR BEING UNDER THE SOVIET HEEL, BUT NOW THAT CAIRO HAS THROWN THE RUSSIANS OUT, KIN HUSSEIN FEELS FREE TO NEGOTIATE HIMSELF WITH THEM FOR ARMS. ZAWAWI CONCLUDED IT IS FORTUNATE THAT JORDAN HAS NOW WON SUFFICIENT SAUDI SUPPORT TO BUY HIS MISSILES FROM U.S. INSTEAD, AS KING DESIRED ALL ALONG.

4. COMMENT: WE FIND IT RATHER CURIOUS THAT SADAT, WHO ONLY THIS SPRING PAID BRIEF OFFICIAL VISIT TO MUSCAT, WOULD CHOOSE TO DESCEND AGAIN ON OMAN SO SOON. CERTAINLY HE CANNOT VIEW OMAN AS SOURCE OF FUNDS TO AID WITH HIS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. WHATEVER PROMPTED THIS SECOND VISIT, HE CERTAINLY WILL HAVE FURTHER EXPANDED SULTAN'S GOOD WILL TOWARD HIS GOVERNMENT BY TAKING THE TIME FOR A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT SEACOAST, MOUNTAINS AND PLATEAU OF DHOFAR WHICH TO THE SULTAN'S OWN WAY OF THINKING IS THE REAL HEART OF OMAN.
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